# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

LEE D. WEST and LYNN M. WEST,	)	
Plaintiffs	)	
v.	)	No. 08 C 2154
COPIAGUE FUNDING CORPORATION et al.,	, ) )	Hon. Robert W. Gettleman
Defendants.	)	

# DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS PURSUANT TO RULES 12(b)(1) AND 12(b)(6) OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

Defendants Homecomings Financial, LLC (f/k/a Homecomings Financial Network, Inc.) ("Homecomings"), Aurora Loan Services ("Aurora"), and Mortgage Electronic Systems, Inc. ("Mortgage Electronic"), by their counsel, J. Matthew Goodin (Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, LLP), respectfully move this Court for an order dismissing Plaintiffs' Complaint pursuant to Rules 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In support of its Motion, Homecomings states as follows:

### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. On or about April 14, 2008, Homecomings received a letter from Plaintiffs' counsel dated April 10, 2008, containing a Notice of Rescission for two mortgage transactions that closed on September 15, 2006. (*See* Compl. at Exs. E-P (loan transaction documents reflecting date of closing) and Q (Notice of Rescission)). The Notice of Rescission stated that the borrowers had elected to rescind their loans pursuant to the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1601, *et seq.* ("TILA").

- 2. On April 16, 2008—just six days after the Notice of Rescission was dispatched—Plaintiffs initiated this action seeking, among other forms of relief, rescission of the subject loans, statutory damages, actual damages, and attorneys fees and costs, pursuant to sections 1635 and 1640 of TILA. (Compl. at 11).
- 3. On April 30, 2008—within twenty days of the date counsel *dispatched* the Notice of Rescission—Homecomings' counsel sent a letter to Plaintiffs' counsel (a) acknowledging receipt of Plaintiffs' Notice, (b) accepting rescission subject to tender of amounts set forth in the letter and execution of a settlement agreement, and (c) enclosing account histories for the subject loans so that Plaintiffs' counsel may confirm the required tender amounts. (*See* counsel's April 30, 2008 letter attached hereto as *Exhibit 1*).<sup>1</sup>
- 4. Plaintiffs' counsel and counsel for Homecomings have maintained a running dialogue since shortly after Homecomings received the Notice of Rescission and Plaintiffs' counsel has repeatedly affirmed his clients' intent to obtain substitute financing and proceed with the rescission. (*See* example e-mail exchange between counsel attached hereto as *Exhibit 2*). However, despite the parties having sought and obtained two extensions of time from the Court in order to complete the rescission process, Plaintiffs have refused to execute a proposed settlement agreement that would give them sixty days from the date of execution to complete the rescission, and have failed to confirm their ability to tender or the anticipated date they will do so. Plaintiffs have also refused to voluntarily dismiss this action. Homecomings is left with no choice but to proceed with this Motion.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Counsel's April 30 letter also noted Homecomings' objection to Plaintiffs' commencement of this action less than one week after the Notice of Rescission was sent and demanded immediate dismissal of the lawsuit pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

### **ARGUMENT**

- I. PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS FOR STATUTORY DAMAGES AND ATTORNEY FEES ARE TIME BARRED AND SHOULD BE DISMISSED PURSUANT TO RULE 12(b)(6).
- 5. TILA actions for damages must be brought within one year of the alleged violation. 28 U.S.C. § 1640(e). The date of the violation in the context of a mortgage transaction is the date the transaction is consummated or "closed"—the date the borrower executes and becomes obligated under the loan documents *See* 12 C.F.R. § 226.2(a)(13); *Streit v. Fireside Chrysler-Plymouth, Inc.*, 697 F.2d 193, 196 (7th Cir. 1983); *Dowdy v. First Metropolitan Mortgage Co.*, No. 01 C 7211, 2002 WL 745851, \*2. (N.D. III. Jan. 29, 2002). TILA actions for damages brought more than one year after the date of the violation are time barred unless the complaint alleges failure to rescind after a notice of rescission as a separate violation of TILA. *See Greer v. Bank One*, No. 01 C 7352, 2002 WL 1732366, \*2-3 (N.D. III. July 25, 2002); *see also Dowdy*, 2002 WL 745851 at \*2.
- 6. In this case, Plaintiffs' loan transactions closed more than one year prior to the filing of this action—on September 15, 2006. (Compl. Exhs. E-P). Homecomings accepted Plaintiffs' Notice of Rescission and began the rescission process within the twenty-day period afforded by TILA. *See Personius v. HomeAmerican Credit, Inc.*, 234 F.Supp. 2d 817, 819-20 (N.D. Ill. 2002) (noting that TILA and its implementing Regulation Z only require that the rescission process be commenced within twenty days). Accordingly, Plaintiffs' claims for statutory damages, actual damages, attorney fees, and any other form of relief sought pursuant to section 1640 of TILA are untimely and should be dismissed with prejudice.

#### II. PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS FOR RESCISSION SHOULD BE DISMISSED PURSUANT TO RULE 12(b)(1) BECAUSE HOMECOMINGS TIMELY ACCEPTED PLAINTIFFS' DEMAND FOR RESCISSION.

- 7. Plaintiffs claim for rescission of the loan transactions is also defective, and should be dismissed with prejudice, because Homecomings accepted Plaintiffs' rescission demand. The law in this jurisdiction is clear—when a defendant offers to satisfy a plaintiff's entire demand, there is no dispute to litigate and the case should be terminated. Rand v. Monsanto Co., 926 F.2d 596, 598 (7th Cir. 1991). Plaintiffs may not insist on litigating after a defendant offers to provide all the relief the plaintiff is entitled to recover. Alliance to End Repression v. City of Chicago, 820 F.2d 873, 878 (7th Cir. 1987); Holstein v. City of Chicago, 803 F.Supp. 205, 209 (N.D. III. 1992), aff'd 29 F.3d 1145 (7th Cir.1994).
- 8. In this case, Homecomings has offered to satisfy Plaintiffs' demand for rescission of the subject mortgage loans. It has acknowledged Plaintiffs' Notice of Rescission, identified the amounts Plaintiffs are required to tender in order to complete the transaction, and requested a reasonable settlement agreement that memorializes the terms of the transaction. Homecomings has agreed to release its mortgages and terminate Plaintiffs' obligations simultaneously with Plaintiffs' tender of the required amounts. There is nothing more that Homecomings can do to satisfy Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs' Complaint is therefore moot and should be dismissed.

WHEREFORE, Defendants Homecomings Financial, LLC (f/k/a Homecomings Financial Network, Inc.), Aurora Loan Services, and Mortgage Electronic Systems, Inc., respectfully request that this Court enter an order dismissing Plaintiffs' Complaint with prejudice pursuant to Rules 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and awarding such further relief as this Court deems just and appropriate.

**Dated:** June 20, 2008

HOMECOMINGS FINANCIAL, LLC, AURORA LOAN SERVICES, and MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS, INC.

By: /s/ J. Matthew Goodin
One of Their Attorneys

J. Matthew Goodin (6275013)
LOCKE LORD BISSELL & LIDDELL LLP
111 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Phone: 312-443-0472 Fax: 312-896-6472

jmgoodin@lockelord.com

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, J. Matthew Goodin, certify that on June 20, 2008, I had a true copy of the preceding document filed with the Court and served via the court's electronic filing system.

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# EXHIBIT 1



111 South Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 Telephone: 312-443-0700 Fax: 312-443-0336 www.lockelord.com

J. Matthew Goodin Direct Telephone: 312-443-0472 Direct Fax: 312-896-6472 mgoodin@lockelord.com

April 30, 2008

### **VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Mr. Al Hofeld, Jr. Law Offices of Al Hofeld, Jr., LLC 208 South LaSalle Street Suite 1650 Chicago, Illinois 60604 al@alhofeldlaw.com

Re: West v. Copiague Funding, et al., Case No. 08 C 2154 (N.D. III.)

Dear Al:

As indicated in my previous letter of April 22, 2008, we represent the Defendants in the above-referenced lawsuit and in connection with your clients' demand for rescission of the mortgage loans referenced in your April 10, 2008 correspondence to our clients.

As an initial matter, I would like to address your clients' lawsuit, which was initiated on April 16, 2008—just six days after a written demand for rescission was made, or two weeks before the 20-day time period afforded creditors to begin the rescission process under Section 1635(b) of Truth in Lending Act ("TILA") was to expire. The lawsuit is premature, constitutes a patent violation of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and should be dismissed immediately. There is no basis for the filing of a lawsuit until a demand for rescission has been made and a creditor has failed to take steps to initiate the rescission process within the required time period.

With regard to the demand for rescission itself, our clients deny that any violation of TILA occurred in connection with the transactions at issue. However, in order to avoid the expense of litigation, they are willing to rescind the loans in question. Please be advised that the rescission process has been initiated per your clients' request. In order to complete rescission of the first mortgage loan in the original principal amount of \$300,000.00, your clients must tender the following amounts to Homecomings Financial, LLC ("Homecomings"), together with an executed copy of a settlement agreement and release:

FIRST MORTGAGE LOAN		
Original principal balance:		\$300,000.00
Principal paid:		\$0.00
Interest paid:	\$20,676.28	

Mr. Al Hofeld, Jr. April 30, 2008 Page 2

Closing costs:	\$2,860.43	
Total paid by borrower:		<u>\$23,536.71</u>
Total Amount to Rescind		<u>\$276,463.29</u>

With regard to the second mortgage loan in the original principal amount of \$15,000.00, we are in the process of confirming payment activity on the loan and will provide an up-to-date rescission calculation shortly. However, the following reflects an **estimated** calculation based on information currently available to us:

SECOND MORTGAGE LOAN		
Original principal balance:		\$15,000.00
Principal paid:		\$60.34
Interest paid:	\$2,369.88	
Closing costs:	\$1,102.06	
Total paid by borrower:		\$3,471.94
Total Amount to Rescind:		<u>\$11,467.72</u>

I am enclosing a copy of the account histories for the loans so that you may verify the computations above. Additional documents relating to the second mortgage will follow. You are already in possession of the HUD-1s, which reflect the closing costs your clients paid in connection with each loan.

Please confirm that we are in agreement as to the rescission amounts and that your clients intend to move forward with the rescission as soon as possible. Upon tender of the required amounts, along with the referenced settlement agreement and release, our clients will consummate the termination of their security interests. Please let us know if you have any objection to this procedure for completing the rescission of your clients' loans.

Very truly yours,

LOCKE LORD BISSELL & LIDDELL LLP

J. Matthew Goodin

JMG:k Enclosures Homecomings Financial, LLC P.O. Box 205

PAGE DATE 04/22/08

Waterloo

IA 50704

HISTORY FOR ACCOUNT 7470247396

----- MAIL ------ PROPERTY ------

	LEE	D WEST				
	LYN	IN M WEST	r			
	708	OAKWOOI	D DR	708	OAKWOOD DR	
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			BAL AFTER	300000.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	1289.85
102606	RP	110106	1503.90	323.95	750.00	429.95
			BAL AFTER			1719.80
			OPTIONAL INS BA	AL 00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
103106	PR0	100106	-1503.90 BAL AFTER	-323.95	-750.00	-429.95
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			BAL AFTER	299676.05		1719.80
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121106	КP	120106	1503.90	-986.32	2060.27	429.95
			BAL AFTER	300662.37	LATE CHARGE BAL	2149.75
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LC DA	ATE	030207	BAL AFTER	1	303725.37	7		3511.24
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LC DA	TE	042807	BAL AFTER		305856.02	2		3972.78
			OPTIONAL	INS BAL	00.00	) LATE	CHARGE BAL	00.00
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			BAL AFTER	1	305856.02	2		1491.81
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PAGE 3 DATE 04/22/08

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10108 SV 030108 .00 -316739.30 .00 .00 BAL AFTER 00.00 00.00	T:32580	/B:001	OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
BAL AFTER 00.00 00.00	040108 SV	030108	.00	-316739.30	.00	.00
32580 /B:001 OPTIONAL INS BAL 00.00 LATE CHARGE BAL 00.00						
	r:32580	/B:001	OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00

END OF HISTORY

Homecomings Financial, LLC PAGE 1
P.O. Box 205 DATE 04/22/08

Waterloo IA 50704

HISTORY FOR ACCOUNT 7305459240

----- MAIL ----- PROPERTY -----

LEE WEST

708 OAKWOOD DR 708 OAKWOOD DR

				•	
DAT	ES	CURRENT BALA	NCES	UNCOLLECTED	
PAID TO	06/01/07	PRINCIPAL	0.00	LATE CHARGES	0.00
NEXT DUE	07/01/07	ESCROW	0.00	OPTIONAL INS	0.00
LAST PMT	04/28/07	UNAPPLIED FUND	0.00	INTEREST	0.00
AUDIT DT	09/25/06	UNAPPLIED CODES		FEES	0.00
		BUYDOWN FUND	0.00	YEAR TO DATE	
LAST AC	TIVITY	BUYDOWN CODE		INTEREST	0.00
06/0	1/07			TAXES	0.00

WESTMONT IL 60559 WESTMONT IL 60559

POST TRI	N DUE	TRANSACTION	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	ESCROW
DATE CDI	E DATE	AMOUNT	PAID	PAID	PAID
102506 RP		126.40			
		BAL AFTER			00.00
		OPTIONAL INS BAL			
		126.40			
LC DATE	120706	BAL AFTER	14985.26		00.00
		OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
121206 AA	120106	.00 BAL AFTER	.00	43.06	.00
		BAL AFTER	14985.26		00.00
		OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
010307 RP	010107	126.40	7.45	118.95	.00
LC DATE	010207	BAL AFTER	14977.81		00.00
				LATE CHARGE BAL	
020907 RP	020107	126.40	7.51	118.89	.00
LC DATE	020807	BAL AFTER	14970.30		00.00
		OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
030507 RP	030107	126.40	7.57	118.83	.00
LC DATE	030207	BAL AFTER	14962.73		00.00
		OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
030507 RP	040107	126.40	7.63	118.77	.00
LC DATE	030207	BAL AFTER	14955.10		00.00
		OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
033007 RP	050107	126.40	7.69	118.71	.00
		BAL AFTER	14947.41		00.00
		OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
043007 RP		126.40			
		BAL AFTER			00.00
		OPTIONAL INS BAL			00.00

PAGE 2 DATE 04/22/08

----- MAIL, ------ PROPERTY -----

LEE WEST

708 OAKWOOD DR

708 OAKWOOD DR

WESTMONT

IL 60559 WESTMONT IL 60559

POST TRN DATE CDE		TRANSACTION AMOUNT	PRINCIPAL PAID	INTEREST PAID	ESCROW PAID
060107 SVT	060107	.00	.00	.00	.00
		BAL AFTER	14939.66		00.00
T:32580	/B:001	OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00
060107 SV	060107	.00	-14939.66	.00	.00
		BAL AFTER	00.00		00.00
T:32580	/B:001	OPTIONAL INS BAL	00.00	LATE CHARGE BAL	00.00

END OF HISTORY

# EXHIBIT 2

## Goodin, Matthew

From: Al Hofeld [al@alhofeldlaw.com]

**Sent:** Friday, May 09, 2008 9:27 AM

To: Goodin, Matthew

Subject: RE: West v. Copiague Funding, et al.

#### Matt.

I will check on my client's progress in getting approved. We intend to move forward - he started the process the day after we received your letter. But hold off on drafting the agreement – I want to make sure he can get approved first. Your calculation of the final tender amount would be appreciated. Have you sent me the servicing history so that I can confirm the figures for myself? Thanks.

I am happy to give you an extension. Just let me know how much time you need. I would say 2-3 weeks is enough time to know whether my clients can get approved. You can call the motion agreed.

From: Goodin, Matthew [mailto:JMGoodin@lockelord.com]

Sent: Friday, May 09, 2008 8:35 AM

To: Al Hofeld

Subject: RE: West v. Copiague Funding, et al.

AI-

It occurred to me this morning that I haven't heard back from you on this matter, that the case has not been dismissed as requested, and that we probably have an answer date approaching. I should be able to get you a final tender amount today and will send over a settlement agreement and release reflecting the amount as soon as I do. In the meantime, please confirm that your clients intend to move forward with the rescission as requested. Give me a call if you would like to discuss the timeframe my client is willing to allow to complete the tender.

Also, unless you will be filing a stipulation of dismissal today, I believe we will need to file some type of motion to extend the response date on the complaint.

Matt